(2) There was no percentage of marks fixed for regulating the promotions of boys from class to class. The principle fixed for passing the boys in the School Final Class had also varied hitherto from year to year. He suggested the desirability of reviving the system of final examinations and promoting the boys who secured a certain percentage of marks.

(3) Under the present scholarship system, it was not the poor students that got the relief. The old system of whole or partial remission of class fees should be revived.

(4) The working of the Text-book Committee had already received the attention of the Government. It was necessary to clearly lay down the principles which should regulate the selection of text-books and care should also be taken to see that moderate prices were fixed for approved text-books. With a view to curf the growing tendency of earning a fortune by writing text-books and also to bring down the prices of such books to the lowest amount possible, he suggested that it should be made a rule that the authors of books should sell the copyright of their works to the Government for a valuation to be fixed in each case.

(5) Alternate text-books should not be prescribed, but there should only be one text-book on a subject for each class. Under the present system, much difficulty was felt when the boys were transferred from one school to another.

(6) The training of Elementary School teachers now lasted for two years. The Member said that, as regards the theory of teaching, it was enough to test their fitness by examining them in the "Adhyapanadarsam" which was the only text-book taught in the Training Schools. As for practical training, the Headmasters of Elementary Schools could be asked to give the untrained teachers under them the training they required. In any case, the number of Elementary Training Schools could be reduced from 10 to 3.

(7) The revived Higher Vernacular Examination was proposed to be confined to teachers of recognised schools. The restriction should be removed.

(8) The office of Range Inspectors might be abolished as those officers practically did no inspection work at present, and the Assistant Inspectors directly controlled by the Director. The powers of appointments and punishments vested in the Inspectors might well be exercised by the Director himself.

(9) The Headmasters of incomplete Lower Grade Elementary Schools should be given an allowance similar to what was given to the Headmasters of L. G. S. Schools, whether complete or incomplete.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

118. Certain suggestions in regard to education.

The Very Revd. Iype Thoma Kathanar (Member, Nominated) first suggested the desirability of affording greater facilities for the development of the Sanskrit language. He also said that, while there were so many agencies for supervising the conduct of the boys, it was equally necessary to see that the teachers appointed to schools were men of good moral character and that the boys contracted no evil habits from their masters. The inspecting authorities should be asked to bestow some attention to it during their inspections.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

THE PROVIDENT FUND COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Dewan.—Gentlemen, in accordance with the announcement in my Address, I propose to take the opinions of the Members of the Assembly, whose names will be read out, on the views expressed in the Report of the Provident Fund Committee.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Aiyengar, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) said that, in his view, the management of the Fund should be solely in the hands of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government, and not with the Managers. The scheme as published was intended to take in its scope all licensed teachers in all recognised private schools and there was no guarantee that the management of every one of them would command the confidence and approval of those employed in them. Some sort of guarantee as to the permanency of the institutions and the possibility of the teachers getting their contributions with or without increase at a later stage was essential. In that view of the case, he was for leaving the management of the Fund to the Government on the understanding that the entire expenses of management should be defrayed by the Government without reference to any other considerations. That was the view of the majority in the report also.

The Member also accepted the rates of contribution to the Fund by the Government, the Managers and the teachers, namely one-third in each case. But in regard to the rate of interest to be allowed on the investments, he asked for the rate being raised from $3\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the same rate as was allowed for the Sirkar Savings Bank deposits.

He next took objection to two principles involved in the scheme. The first was the obligation on the part of the Manager to make his contribution the moment a teacher put in an application. The contributions were quite independent of the salaries and there should be nothing in the scheme which would make it possible for a teacher to compel the Manager to contribute. As a result of an agreement between the Manager and the teacher, the application for enrolment under the scheme ought to go to the Government and the contributions might follow after acceptance of the application. In the interests of discipline, any sort of compulsion was undesirable and should be removed, if contemplated. The scheme appeared to apply to teachers under probation. That should not be. The confirmation of the teacher depended upon the will of the Manager and there should be no unwarranted interference with his judgment.

His next objection was with reference to the conditions prescribed under which the teacher would be entitled to get back his contributions together with a share of the contributions by the Manager and the Government. In the estimation of two of the Members, the lapses of deposit should go to the Government and that was sought to be justified on the ground that the Government administered the fund and bore the cost of its management. He said that the attitude of the Government was much more generous in the earlier scheme and that the promise therein contained should be kept up to the spirit till the end. It was not a question of financial considerations, but of doing justice to a large body of individuals who were working in the field of education. No sort of remuneration should therefore be looked for by the Government. In his opinion, the lapses should also go to the teacher, or to the teacher, Manager and the Government according to their respective shares.

Another suggestion of the Committee was that a teacher should continuously work in a private school for 20 years to entitle him to the full benefit of the scheme and certain proportions of the contributions were fixed for less periods. The Member contended that there was no analogy between the scheme and the pension rules. Twenty years was too long a period and it would completely shut out possible chances of the teacher improving his prospects by accepting better offers from other private schools or Government departments. He said that, instead of 20 years' service in the private school, the same period in the service of the State might be fixed. But the proper course would be to do away with the varying periods and fix the maximum at five years. If the Government considered it necessary, the limit might be raised to 7 or 10 years, but there should be no further consideration which would interfere with the due return of the entire emolument of the teacher except under the contingency of his dismissal from the service for reasons approved of by the Director of Public Instruction. In that case the teacher need only be given his contribution with the interest thereon. In the best interests of the teachers whom the scheme was primarily intended to benefit, a change on the lines indicated was necessary.

Lastly, the Member referred to rule 7 and said that the discontinuance of subscriptions on three occasions should not deprive the teacher of the privilege of subscribing to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Fund as that would be disproportionate punishment. Even the pension rules contained liberal provisions for condonation of interruptions. Even if there be any interruptions, that should not affect the interests already earned by the teacher. It should also be made clear whether the discontinuance on the three occasions should be continuous or might be in the course of a teacher's entire service.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that the contribution of the Government should be raised to one-half and that of the Managers and teachers reduced to one-fourth in each case.

Mr. L. H. Netto (Member, Nominated) said that he had very little to do with the Education Department. As Elementary Education was free at least up to a certain limit, the Managers would get no income by way of fees from Elementary Schools. The scheme should not apply to such schools.

Rule 5 should be modified so as to make it compulsory on the part of teachers to contribute to the Fund. Under the present rule, there was the possibility of a Manager entertaining a teacher on condition that the latter would not enrol himself in the Fund and thereby the object of the scheme might be frustrated.

In regard to lapses of deposit, the Member said that they should be shared equally by the Government and the Managers.

Mr. V. S. Krishna Pillai (Member, Thiruvalla taluk) suggested that the rates of contributions by the Government, the Managers and the teachers should be one-half, one-fourth and one-fourth respectively.

Messrs. K. M. Mamman Mappilla (Member, T. I. C., Thiruvalla), and *N. Kumaran Asan* (Member, Nominated) fully supported the views expressed by Mr. Krishna Aiyengar.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidani Thangal (Member, Nominated) said that he agreed with Revd. Mr. Askwith in the view that the management of the Fund should be entirely in the hands of the Committee, and that he had no other suggestions to make.

The Very Revd. Iype Thoma Kathanar (Member, Nominated) said that he had not studied the report fully and that he would write out his views and send the same to the Chief Secretary to Government in due course.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that it should be compulsory with the Managers to contribute to the Fund, if the teachers should express their willingness to join the Fund.

The term "lapse" should be clearly and fully defined, so as to set out what would constitute a lapse.

Referring to clause (*c*) of Rule 12, he said that, in the absence of any rule to fetter the option of the teacher, he might go away from the school at any time and consequently the Manager might be put to much difficulty. Some restriction was therefore necessary. But the present provisions of the rule were arbitrary and required revision. The term 'default' should be clearly defined and the final authority competent to decide as to who had defaulted should also be specified in the rule.

The Member next referred to clause (*d*) of Rule 12 and said that, whether the amount was small or great, there should be the same guarantee that the amount to the credit of a depositor would be returned to his proper legal representative after the death of the former. He was not for reserving any power with the Government for adjudicating such claims, but would leave the competence to the Civil Courts, irrespective of any money limit.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that he would read the report and send a statement of his views later on.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that he was at one with Revd. Mr. Askwith in thinking that the scheme should not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be obligatory with the Managers and also that the Managers' share of the lapses of deposit should go to them.

The consideration of the subjects was then resumed.

119. Technical and Industrial Institutes.

Revd. Samuel Sumanam (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) pointed out how the raw produce of the country was exported in large quantities and how foreign merchants became rich by the importation of manufactured goods. The people of the State were wholly dependent upon foreign merchants for even the ordinary necessaries of life. Industry was at a low ebb in the country and it was time that the people became conscious of their economic dependence on the foreign manufactures. The growth and encouragement of indigenous industries on improved and modern lines could alone secure the economic salvation of the people. The necessity for the Government to direct its attention towards the industrial regeneration of the State became more imperative on account of the circumstance that the population in the State was increasing by rapid strides and that the growing population could not be maintained by agriculture alone, which had already deteriorated to a considerable extent. The Member pointed out that the prosperity and progress of the European nations, of Japan and America were entirely due to their industrial and commercial activities. Already, Mysore and Baroda had taken the initiative in the matter of encouraging the industries of those States and of imparting industrial education to the people. Travancore afforded ample facilities for the improvement of wood works, iron works, weaving, and manufacture of sugar and oils, and the Government should, in the opinion of the Member, start those industries without delay. He therefore requested that industrial schools should be opened in different parts of the country and that such schools should, wherever possible, be attached to the Departmental Schools.

In that connection, he also requested that the Government might be pleased to render some help to the institution started at Puthalom in South Travancore by a philanthropic citizen of the place for the protection of the destitute.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

120. The need for encouraging Vernacular Education.

Mr. R. Parasurama Iyer (Member, Kunnathur taluk) said that mass education could be effected only through the medium of the Vernacular of the country. To spread education among the really backward classes of people, it was necessary, the Member pointed out, that the Government should introduce an element of compulsion in their educational policy and render substantial assistance to such classes of people by improving their condition. To improve their circumstances the indigenous industries should be developed. He also pointed out that the Government were spending unnecessarily large sums in costly school buildings. The expenditure should be curtailed and the saving should be utilised for providing the required accommodation in all Elementary Schools so as to meet the increasing demand.

For the improvement of Vernacular Education, he suggested that the standard of the highest class in the Elementary Department should be equivalent to that of the Secondary School Final Class. All the subjects taught in the latter class should be taught in the former also. To encourage the study of the Vernacular, he also advocated the employment of those who had passed the Vernacular Examinations in the several departments of the State and the enhancement of the pay of the Elementary School teachers. Such men should be appointed in the Higher Grade Vernacular Schools also. In conclusion, he requested that the Government should pay particular attention in the matter of encouraging the publication of books of reference and other scientific books in the Vernacular.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly